



Trucks crossing from Kenya to Uganda in the Malaba cross-border area. Photo credit: Anthony Toroitch/IGAD

EAST AFRICA

IGAD CROSS-BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the regional intergovernmental organizations of the African Union Commission in the Horn of Africa, with a combined population of over 260 million people. It comprises eight member states: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Somalia, and South Sudan. The Horn of Africa experiences migration and cross-border mobility due to economic uncertainties and the fragile political environment. Most IGAD member states are low-middle-income countries with low health service coverage, high mortality and morbidity rates, and cross-border mobility often accompanied by the movement of diseases.

Health systems for the marginalized and vulnerable cross-border mobile populations in IGAD's arid and semi-arid lands is often neglected and not regarded as a priority. These cross-border communities include people living in cross-border areas, mobile pastoralists looking for pasture, refugees, seasonal cross-border laborers, economically active people and undocumented migrants, and internally displaced people and their host communities. The health risks and consequences of communicable diseases and substandard, falsified, and counterfeit medical products among cross-border mobile populations is a public health priority for the IGAD region. To promote optimal health outcomes among cross-border mobile populations and the population at large, a holistic health system approach is required, taking into consideration cross-border health policy across sectors and borders.

The IGAD Cross-Border Health Initiative is committed to improving the life of people in the region, with the goal of improved life expectancy and prosperity through the strengthening of regional health systems.

OUR WORK

The goals of the IGAD Cross-Border Health Initiative include:

- To establish a harmonized system for monitoring the quality and safety of medical products at IGAD cross-border areas.
- To strengthen the regional capacity of local manufacturers to produce essential lifesaving medical products.
- To strengthen the regional cross-border tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis and management capacity.
- To strengthen the regional capacity of member states to deliver resilient reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health/family planning services to cross-border mobile populations.
- To strengthen regional cross-border health policies and knowledge management on health.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The IGAD Cross-Border Health Initiative has:

- Successfully conducted the first regional post-marketing surveillance to determine the proportion of substandard and falsified medicines circulating in the IGAD cross-border areas.
- Successfully conducted a cross-border health facility assessment in the member states on TB service delivery and inter-country referral in 116 cross-border health facilities in 26 cross-border districts.
- Successfully developed a minimum package of TB services for cross-border mobile populations to strengthen cross-border TB control and effective continuum of care.
- Developed a regional inter-country referral tool for TB patients to facilitate a seamless referral of TB clients from one member state to the other.
- Successfully implemented a sustainable system for the management of health information through the utilization of G-suite for document repository and archival.
- Successfully conducted a regional health information and knowledge-sharing needs assessment to identify knowledge management practices, needs, and opportunities.
- Conducted capacity building for member states' cross-border health facility staff on pharmaco-vigilance, knowledge management, and current tools and trends on the management of TB.

BUDGET

April 2018 – June 2019: US\$ 984,990

June 2020 – June 2021: US\$ 2,011,573

DURATION

2018-2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

IGAD member states

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

IGAD

KEY PARTNERS

IGAD member state governments

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